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## **Parks Department Offers Citizen-Science Wetland-Monitoring Program** *Free training for volunteers*

Milwaukee, WI (Jan. 15, 2015) – Would-be volunteers for the Milwaukee County Parks Citizen-Science Wetland-Monitoring Program are invited to attend a free orientation Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 6-8 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center. The Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park at 9701 W. College Ave.

This is the final orientation offered before field training begins.

Only volunteers who attend the orientation, or those who attended the September orientation, will be invited to participate in the free, two-hour field-training workshop. Volunteers may choose to attend the workshop on either a weekday evening or a Saturday morning, in March. Volunteers will look for and document the presence and distribution of sensitive wildlife populations such as salamanders, frogs, toads, crayfish, fairy shrimp, and marsh birds. Data will be collected from ephemeral wetlands throughout the Park System in the Root River Watershed. This information will guide habitat-management activities within the Park System.

“Implementing a Citizen-based Wetland Monitoring Program in the Milwaukee County Park System to Document the Presence and Distribution of Sensitive Wildlife Populations” was among 22 projects selected through a competitive review by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Parks program, developed by Natural Areas staff, will receive \$5,000 over the course of the one-year project.

Since 2004, the DNR has helped fund 219 high-priority natural-resource monitoring projects through the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program. Working with community and school groups, conservation organizations, and other agencies, the state is able to compile and analyze critical information on plants, animals, water, and other natural resources. Additional information on the Partnership Program is available at <http://wiatri.net/cbm/>.

For more about the Parks program or to register, contact Julia Robson, Assistant Natural Areas Coordinator, at (414) 257-8081 or [julia.robson@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:julia.robson@milwaukeecountywi.gov) or visit [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) and search “Citizen Science Opportunities.” Registration must be received by Feb. 9, 2015.

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